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A Unique Education and Culture Activity

The English Language Office of the Public Affairs Section within the Embassy of the United States



Solides sağı: Jennifer Janak, Aycan Yaman, David Malatesta, Maria Snarski, Maria Hockstein

of America works with Turkish universities and

with the Turkish Ministry of Education to help improve the teaching of English and to disseminate information on American culture and institutions. The office assists in the implementation of English Language Teaching teacher development programs nationwide, and coordinates a sales and distribution program to make high-quality English language teaching materials and reference sources more accessible. The office works closely with the English teaching association INGED, with program directors, school administrators, and teachers from both the government and private sector to make the teaching of English more effective.

The English Language Office consists of Maria Snarski the English Language Officer (ELO) and Aycan Yaman, the assistant ELO. Two of the main programs the office offers are the English Language Fellows program and the English Language Specialist program. In academic year 2005-2006, there were 10 English Language Fellows who worked throughout Turkey. The

'Fellows' are American teachers who have Masters Degrees as well as experience teaching English and or literature. They work with educational institutions on various projects, conduct teacher training seminars, and teach various courses for the universities. In academic year 2006-2007, there will also be ten Fellows based at the following universities: Istanbul Technical, Mugla, Abant İzzet Baysal, Selcuk, Cukurova, Mustafa Kemal, Gaziantep, and Karadeniz Technical University. The remaining two Fellows will be based in Ankara at the Ministry of Education and the Turkish-American Association.

Under the English Language Specialist (ELSpec) Program, five ELSpecs came to Turkey in 2006 to work with various universities on such topics as testing, computer assisted language learning, textbook writing, curriculum re-innovation and communicative activities. The ELSpecs usually come for two weeks and work with several institutions while in country.



The most recent English Language Specialist to visit Turkey was the last two weeks of June of 2006. Chicago native, David Malatesta, worked with 50 English language teachers from Ankara's public schools and 100 secondary school students who took part in the English Access Summer Institute and Day Camp from June 19-30. The English Access Summer Program was organized by English Language Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. Participating teachers and students were recruited with the assistance and cooperation of the Turkish Ministry of Education, which also provided a host school, Hacı Ödömer Tarman Anadolu Lisesi, for the event. Teachers had a full week of workshops led by visiting English Language Specialist Malatesta on how to design communicative, engaging, and interactive English classes for secondary school students. During this first week, Dilyay Publishers visited and set up a stand displaying their ELT books for the teachers to peruse. They also generously worked with Doga Schools to secure a donation of quality t-shirts to the program for all the participating teachers and students that completed with the Access program logo printed on them. Thanks very much for your support, Dilyay and Doga Schools!



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To kick off the second week of the program, a picnic in the garden of the American Ambassador's Residence was arranged. Over 350 guests (the secondary school teachers, students and the students' parents) enjoyed typical picnic fare, tossed Frisbees on the lawn, and watched a performance by the Houston-based break dance group HaviKoro, on tour with American Voices. In the second week of the program, June 26 - 30, 2006, the fifty English language teachers took turns leading activities such as songs, classroom games, videos, and outdoor competitions aimed at improving English language fluency.

One of the highlights of the week was the mural the students painted at the school which was chosen by the Turkish Ministry of Education to host the camp. Jennifer Janak artist from "All Americans" Art Residency Program facilitated

the mural painting. English Language Fellows Jeela Bentley, Mora Hockstein, Claire Nice, and Maria Iskenderoglu also participated in the summer program. At the closing certificate ceremony both teachers and students expressed their interest in having the program last longer with such comments as "We would like to take part at a similar course again. Next year, next month, next week. Anytime!" and "It was too short, only five days. It's not enough I think. I met new friends and teachers and speaking English with Americans was enjoyable."

Comments like that remind us just how fortunate we are to be involved in the field of education. For more information please visit our website:

http://turkey.usembassy.gov/english_language_programs.html